

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

DETAILED EXAMINATION

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

~~(Nationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ 11/2001)~~

Applicant's or agent's file reference  P-IPALCO-001/WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No.  PCT/EP03/50625	International filing date (day/month/year)  15/09/2003	Priority date (day/month/year)  16/09/2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC  B64F1/00		
Applicant  IPALCO B.V. et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consists of a total of        sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I  Basis of the report

II  Priority

III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

IV  Lack of unity of invention

V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

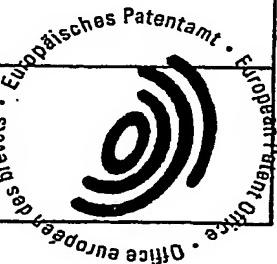
VI  Certain documents cited

VII  Certain defects in the international application

VIII  Certain observations on the international application

**CORRECTED  
VERSION**

Date of submission of the demand  29/03/2004	Date of completion of this report  13.05.04
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer  Diana Portabella Llinares



**I. Basis of the report**

1. This report has been drawn up on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*)

the international application as originally filed

the description, pages

, as originally filed

pages

, filed with the demand

pages

, filed with the letter of

the claims, Nos.

, as originally filed

Nos.

, as amended under Article 19

Nos.

, filed with the demand

Nos.

, filed with the letter of

the drawings, sheets / fig.

, as originally filed

sheets / fig.

, filed with the demand

sheets / fig.

, filed with the letter of

**2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:**

the description, pages:

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets / fig.

**3.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2 (c)).****4. Additional observations, if necessary:**

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citation and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty	Claims	1 - 12	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive Step	Claims	1 - 12	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial Applicability	Claims	1 - 12	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and Explanations

1. The closest prior art is considered to be reflected by GB-A-772 473, which discloses a device for supplying preconditioned air to an aircraft on the ground, comprising: a compressed air inlet; a compressed air hose having a first end connected to said compressed air inlet and an opposite second end for connection to a compressed air unit; expander means downstream of said compressed air inlet for allowing said compressed air to expand to lower pressure and temperature; a connection hose having an end to be connected to an aircraft on the ground.

Object of the invention is to provide a device to provide preconditioned air to an aircraft on the ground that is lighter than known from the prior art and allows to increase the volume of preconditioned air. The solution is to position the compressed air unit on the ground, ie outside the device and to provide an ambient air inlet and a mixing chamber downstream of the expander allowing to increase the air volume and control the air temperature.

There is no fair suggestion in the available prior art as to mixing ambient air downstream of the expander.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

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**VIII. Certain observations on the international application**

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. The independent Claim 1 is not in a two-part form.
2. The closest prior art according to D1 is not acknowledged and commented upon the description such as to allow the skilled person to recognise the contribution of the invention to the prior art.
3. The claims are not provided with reference signs.